

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application, and for the suggestions for amending the application. As a result, the Applicant has amended the application to comply with the suggestions made by the Examiner. Although the application is under final rejection, claim 1 has been amended merely to comply with a request from the Examiner and to add the subject matter of allowed claim 3. Claim 8 has merely been amended to address a §112 matter raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, the amendments do not raise new issues and should be allowed after final rejection.

Drawings:

In the Amendment submitted on September 24, 2003, Applicant did not submit Replacement Sheets for the changes made to the drawings. However, Applicant is now submitting the Replacement Sheets.

Claim Objections

In response to the claim objection, Claim 1 has been amended to include the language suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In response the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 8 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for adhesive and cohesive capacity. In addition, Claim 10 has

been canceled from the application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that additional issues exist with regard to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that such issues may be promptly resolved.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-10 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,454,803 to Sageser.

However, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the art of record, and Claims 3, 5, 7, 11-12 and 14-16 include allowable subject matter. As a result, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 3. In addition, Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the informality issues. All remaining claims are dependent upon allowable Claims 1 and 8. According, it is submitted that the absorbent product of Claims 1 and 8, and the claims depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable over the art of record.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: April 12, 2004

By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620